**VIII. Read Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH, pages 142-148**

**Question/Writing: In the chapter “The Boniface Estate”, what are the signs that the rats have totally transformed into different creatures, that they now have a different identity?**

**What are the clues (reactions) from other rats that the identity of the rats of NIMH has changed?**

There are clues from the other rats because the other rats get freaked out when they see the Rats of NIMH. For example, when the Rats of NIMH talked to them about things, the rats “looked at us strangely and edged away.” They somehow knew that the Rats of NIMH were different, or odd in a way to normal rats.

**What discontent, or worry, do the rats start to have about stealing?**

The rats start to have a discontent, or worry about stealing food, and almost everything for all of their lives. They feel discontent that rats HAVE to steal everything that they get. They thought WHY? WHY do we have to steal everything that we get?

**What is the greatest discovery that the rats make at the Boniface Estate?**

The rats make many great discoveries at the Boniface Estate, but one of their discoveries is the greatest. I believe that their greatest discovery was; the rats learning how to write. In the end of the chapter, the Rats say, that while in the study, they looked at books, and practiced, and started to write for the first time. Writing is one of the most important elements of civilization, as we know.

**What does all of this mean about the rat’s identity about who they are?**

All of this identifies the rats, and changes them, from rats, into a civilization! They were not normal rats anymore, because they were more intelligent and able to do a lot more than normal rats. They also were beginning to ask themselves, WHY do we NEED to steal? Why can’t we make thing ourselves, which a civilization must do to sustain itself. Finally, they can read and write. These are essential elements to any civilization. We need reading to form documents and to read recordings, and we need writing to MAKE documents and recordings. These are the reasons that the rats are now an identifiably a civilization.